

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

"INNOCENTS ABROAD."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been greatly interested in all the useful information set forth in our JOURNAL, on the question of "Morality in Relation to Health," and in my little way I bring the question forward in my work, as far as I can do so judiciously.

As a private nurse, I travel about a good bit, and have interested myself in making notes of every case in which the results of venereal disease is apparent in the people I meet, and have been horrified at the number of disfigured faces with which one may come in contact in big cities; disfigurement, which is almost too great a punishment for any poor human being to bear, whether they are innocent or guilty.

Surely something ought to be done to prevent persons with discharging wounds travelling in public conveyances and railway carriages. The necessity for some sort of restriction was demonstrated on a recent journey.

Of course I travel third class, and on returning from the north a week ago, the restricted space in the little corridor carriages was crammed—sometimes as many as four persons on each side, although three is a tight fit for comfort. My companions at the time were a mother and two sweet-looking daughters in their teens, a Sister of Mercy (who was usefully studying a book on anatomy), and another. At a station a youth opened the door and pushed in, the guard abetting. "Now, ladies, make room," he said, "this carriage is licensed to hold eight." The youth squashed in beside one of the girls, took off his cap, and leaned back his head. Then, to my horror, I saw his neck, with its displaced dressing of lint and bandage—the disease in acute irruption! I felt sick, but took courage. As he was opposite to me, I leaned forward and said (fixing a speaking and relentless eye upon his neck), "As it is so hot, would you try and find a seat in a smoker?" He understood, and without further ado got up, went into the corridor, and sat on a box. Poor lad, I was sorry for him! But *that* neck, in close proximity to those clean, sweet girls, and their ignorant mother—and the thought of the next head to rest on the back of that seat filled me with apprehension.

How I longed for the addresses of those "innocents abroad," so that I might send them a copy of Miss Brodrick's pamphlet, "Morality in Relation to Health." It should be sown broadcast.

Yours truly,
PRO BONO PUBLICO.]

"LEGALLY DEAD."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see a letter on the treatment of the insane in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as my experience is that the press will not allow the subject of insanity and the abuses which exist in connection with the treatment of the insane in many private asylums to be discussed. The general public, who would insist on many reforms if they were convinced of the need, are kept in ignorance of the present deplorable state of things behind many closed doors.

Yours obediently,

ONCE CERTIFIED.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To the writer of letters marked "Private."—Why waste your valuable time reading a journal you accuse of editorial irresponsibility? Of course we "kindly smiled" as you suggest. Imagine a highly skilled and conscientious professional woman, a trained nurse, being worthy of equal consideration—in a question of national health—with a diseased cow! The notorious vanity of sex must have inspired our riotous flight of fancy!

Sister, Male Ward.—The little book reviewed this week, "Notes for Male Nurses," should be useful to you. As you are fond of writing we hope you will compete for the weekly prize.

S. M. G., Liverpool.—"Workhouses and Pauperism," by Louisa Twining, is just the book you require. It is published by Methuen & Co., 36, Essex Street, London. W.C. Price 2s. 6d.

C. F. A., London.—The Blue Book containing the Report and Special Report of the Select Committee on the Asylums' Officers' Bill, together with the proceedings of the Committee, is to be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., price 1s. 6d. Two ladies only gave evidence before the Committee—Miss M. Lord, Matron of the Banstead Asylum, L.C.C., and Mrs. N. H. O'Connor, Matron of the Ballinasloe Asylum, Ireland.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR OCTOBER.

October 7th.—What care should be given to instruments after operations?

October 14th.—Describe in brief the disorders of the nervous system which occur after pregnancy.

October 21st.—Mention some important points to remember when giving lavage.

October 28th.—What accidents may occur to the child during delivery?

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